UC Synergy

Hospitals and Clinics News

University of California · San Francisco

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Patients Benefit From Advances In Medical Care

Exciting things are always happening at UCSF—one of the outstanding teaching hospitals in the United States. For example, take these current, noteworthy developments in medicine and surgery:

Laser Beam Treatment

A $35,500 Argon Laser was installed recently in an area adjacent to the UC Hospital Operating Room, and the first Laser beam treatments at UCSF were begun.

The Laser, one of about six in the Bay Area, is being used by the Department of Ophthalmology to treat patients with vascular diseases of the retina, and certain retinal detachments. The beam coagulates the blood vessels of the eye by causing concentrated light to be absorbed by the vessel pigment of the retina, creating heat.

The Argon Laser supplements a Zeiss Photocoagulator, which is located in the same area and has been used for many years by the Department of Ophthalmology.

Help for Kidney Patients

In the last two years, more than 100 chronic kidney patients on artificial kidney machines have undergone an operation at UCSF to connect an artery and a vein in the arm. This procedure, performed by Dr. William K. Ehrenfeld, Assistant Professor of Surgery, eliminates the need for an external shunt for kidney dialysis.

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New Monitoring System for Infant Intensive Care Nursery

Early in 1973, five new neo-natal monitoring units will be installed in Moffitt Hospital's Intensive Care Nursery. The $36,250 monitoring system has been especially developed for UCSF.

Each of the five units will be located directly at the bedside of an acutely ill infant and will provide monitoring of respiration, electro-cardiogram, and venous and arterial pressures. These self-contained units will eliminate the need to move various pieces of monitoring equipment to areas where they are needed.

Nurses will be trained in the use of the equipment, which includes newly developed digital blood pressure displays, scopes, alarms, and recorders.

The new monitoring system represents another important step in the intensive effort to improve methods of care for high-risk newborn, who are brought to UCSF from many parts of the West, and even from foreign countries.

This unit, with its dedicated team of physicians and nurses, and aggressive research program, has succeeded in reducing the infant mortality rate at UCSF to one-quarter the overall rate in California and the Nation.

Dawn Isaacs, Intensive Care Nursery staff nurse, feeds a tiny patient.

INSIDE STORY

Meet Willie Gray—Our Talented Drapery Maker

Did you know that the draperies hanging on hundreds of windows throughout the UC Hospitals and Clinics are the work of a single energetic and talented employee—Willie Lean Gray?

Since 1958, Mrs. Gray has been almost totally responsible for measuring, cutting, stitching, pleating, hemming and personally hanging all these draperies. Her cutting table, sewing machine and supply of fabrics are located in a corner of the Linen and Textiles Department on the fourth floor of the Laundry Building.

When we visited her recently, Mrs. Gray was completing draperies for the newly decorated Emergency waiting area and offices. The fabric, a striking yellow and green geometric design on a white background, was selected by Edith Catelli, a member of the Board of Directors of the UCSF Hospitals Auxiliary and an active Hospital volunteer. Mrs. Catelli, herself an artist and designer, planned the décor and the material was donated by the auxiliary. There was enough fabric left over for Mrs. Gray to make matching sofa cushions and bolsters.

Except for special projects like this, most of Mrs. Gray's draperies are made from standard fabrics—colorful striped cotton for patients' rooms, or a mixture of cotton and rayon in solid antique gold, turquoise, bronze, or yellow for other areas.

The largest windows she has ever draped are those in the Ninth Floor Solarium where the window coverings had to be lined. Another big project was the employees' cafeteria.

The drapery maker, who has no fear of climbing high ladders, personally hangs all new draperies and removes soiled or worn ones for repairs and cleaning. Once in a while she takes on a special sewing project that has nothing to do with windows, like making typewriter covers. And once, a medical researcher asked her to make a mosquito cage by stitching organza over a wire frame.

Willie Gray has a second job in a department store where she makes clothes for window mannequins to advertise the fabrics on sale. Even in her spare time, she loves to sew. She's especially proud of the three-piece suit (trousers, jacket and top coat) she recently tailored for her husband, Marcus.

Mr. Gray is an air shipping chief for the General Services Administration here, and is responsible for shipping government supplies all over the country. They have two teen age children, Marcus, Jr. and Jesslyn Yvonne.

Willie Gray has just completed another drapery order.

OUTPATIENT LOAD

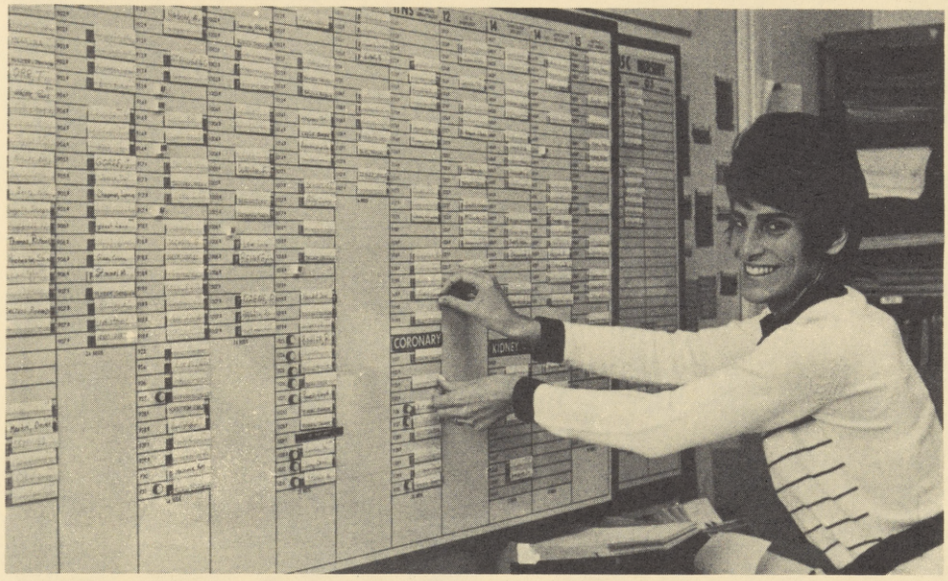
Hospitals now provide outpatient care to six persons for every one patient admitted to a hospital bed.

HOSPITAL WORKER/PATIENT RATIO

The average hotel employs one person for every six guests. To provide a full range of services around the clock for six patients, the average hospital must employ almost 18 people.

—American Hospital Association

Keeping Track of Our Patients



Sue Geminani, Admitting Department, assigns patient beds.

Until recently the Bed Status System Board in the Admitting Department was the only one of its kind in existence. But now the idea is being copied at UCLA Hospital.

The board, which has been in use here for the past few months, was custom made especially for UCSF by Arthur Alexander of Sacramento. It is the result of numerous conferences and countless hours of designing and redesigning.

Sue Geminani has the full-time assignment of operating the system. Each square on the board represents a patient bed in a specific room and area of Moffitt or UC Hospital. The board is divided into sections representing the various patient units and these are color-coded for rapid identification.

Every morning, Mrs. Geminani calls each floor to learn which patients have been discharged. Then she removes from the board the magnetic labels showing the names of these patients. All day long, as new patients are admitted, and others are discharged or moved, she uses the board to reassign the patient beds.

According to Amy Howell, Department Manager, the system has been extremely effective in speeding room assignments. Visitors from many other hospitals have come to see how it works.

MEDICAL ADVANCES

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According to Dr. Ehrenfeld, the "arterial venous fistula" has many advantages in terms of the patient's comfort. Shunts can cause clotting problems, or infections, and patients with external shunts can't take showers or tub baths, for example. He adds that UCSF has been extremely active in popularizing the new surgical procedure.

Total Joint Replacement

Operations for the total replacement of various joints continue to progress at UCSF. The Department of Orthopedic Surgery reports that hundreds of total hip replacements have been performed here.

Total knee and total elbow replacements are being done on an experimental basis, but will become more frequent as techniques develop. Of lesser magnitude are operations being performed for plastic replacement of joints of the fingers, or large toe, in patients suffering from extreme arthritis.

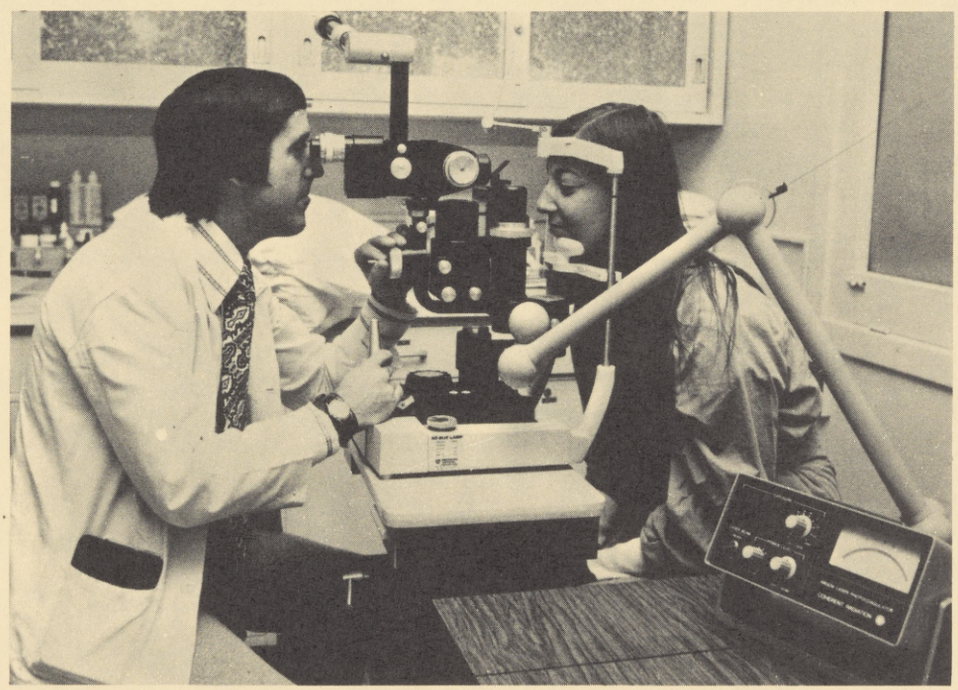
Needed, News!

This is *your* newsletter. To make *UC Synergy* truly representative of all departments and services in the UC Hospitals and Clinics, we need your help!

The Editor will especially welcome items such as the following:

- News about *people:* honors, achievements, recognition, on or off the job.
- New services and programs. Hospitals and Clinics employees, please *communicate!*
- Suggestions for making this a better place to work, or improving services to patients.

Please send your news items to "The Editor," *UC Synergy*, care of William G. Gonzalez, Assistant Director, 119 M.



Dean B. Burgess, M.D.; Judy Smith, Secretary, UC Hospital, demonstrate use of Laser.

A Very Special Photo Gallery

A "conversation piece" in Moffitt Hospital's Pediatrics Unit is the montage of children's photos pasted on the window at the Sixth Floor East Nursing Station.

No one seems to remember exactly which nurse started it, but the photos, contributed by the parents of young patients, have been accumulating for at least five years. They number in the hundreds.

Many little patients, who have to return to the hospital several times for treatment, delight in picking their own faces out of the crowd.

Conferring in foreground, Barbara Hatch, Head Nurse 6-E; Nolan McCann, Unit Manager

News from Nursing Service

Nursing Service reports these recent developments:

Day Care Center

A Day Care Center for treatment of patients with acute psoriasis will open soon in a house on Third Avenue being renovated for this purpose. Subject to arrangements being concluded for insurance reimbursement, this will be instituted as an "in-patient" service. This innovative service, developed by Dr. David Cram, is expected to reduce substantially the cost of treatment that would otherwise involve overnight hospitalization. It is the first of its kind in the U.S., says Roland King, Assistant to the Director of Hospitals.

Delivery Room Staffing

For greater flexibility and more effective staffing, Nursing Service is reducing the size of the regular Delivery Room staff, and training members of the present Post-Partum nursing staff in Delivery Room procedures. Each Post-Partum professional staff nurse will be rotated through a one-month Delivery Room orientation. Then she may be assigned to this area when necessary to meet peak staffing needs.

Head Nurse Orientation

To improve communication between the nursing staff and Nursing Administration, Head Nurses of inpatient departments are being rotated through the Nursing Office for a two-week period to observe administrative and clerical procedures.

Help for New Mothers

The trend toward shorter hospitalization for maternity patients is making it more difficult for new mothers to adjust to their roles and to learn to care for their infants. Under a Nursing Research Development grant, the Post-Partum Service is making a special study of patient teaching. Answers are being sought to such questions as: When are new mothers most receptive to teaching? What content should have priority? What are the most effective teaching strategies?

Hospital Trends

New therapeutic aids may be worth their weight in gold when it comes to saving lives, but their maintenance costs can be very weighty items, too. A kidney dialysis unit that costs $80,000 to buy will cost a hospital another $60,000 each year in maintenance and in salaries for the specially skilled personnel needed to operate it.

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Medical breakthroughs quickly move from the miracle to the commonplace stage. Approximately half of the nation's 7,000 hospitals now are equipped with intensive care units, facilities that were available in only seven per cent of all hospitals just a dozen years ago.

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** SYNERGY: "Cooperative action; working together. . ."*